IN THE CLAIMS

1.-42. (canceled)

43. (currently amended) A network system, comprising:

a first information processing apparatus having a user interface for receiving input including a password from a user and for providing output to the user; and

a second information processing apparatus including a database, said second information processing apparatus capable of being connected to the first information processing apparatus via a network,

wherein the second information processing apparatus is operable to receive first identification information, and second identification information and the password over the network from the first information processing apparatus, the first identification information identifying at least one of the first information processing apparatus or a user of the first information processing apparatus, the second identification information identifying a program stored on a recording medium coupled to the first information processing apparatus, the second information processing apparatus being operable to verify whether the received first and second identification information and the password match data stored in the database, such that when ~~each of~~ the first ~~and second~~ identification information does not match ~~matches~~ the data stored in the database, and when ~~or~~ the second identification information matches the data stored in the database and a password inputted by the user at the first information processing apparatus is valid, the second information processing apparatus permits the first information processing apparatus to execute the program.

44. (previously presented) A network system as claimed in claim 43, wherein the first identification information includes a user ID identifying the user.

45. (previously presented) A network system as claimed in claim 43, wherein the first identification information includes a device ID identifying the first information processing apparatus.

46. (previously presented) A network system as claimed in claim 45, wherein the device ID is unique to the first information processing apparatus.

47. (currently amended) A method of remotely authorizing execution of a program stored on a recording medium, comprising:

receiving first identification information and second identification information at a second information processing apparatus from a first information processing apparatus via a network, the first identification information identifying at least one of the first information processing apparatus or a user of the first information processing apparatus, the second identification information identifying a program stored on a recording medium coupled to the first information processing apparatus;

determining ~~one of~~ (a) whether the first and second identification information match data stored in a database at the second information processing apparatus, and (b) whether the second identification information matches data stored in the database and a password inputted by the user at the first information processing apparatus is valid, when the first identification information is determined not to match the data stored in the database; and

when the first identification information is determined not to match the data stored in the database, and the second identification information is determined to match the data stored in the database and the password inputted by the user at the first information processing apparatus is valid~~any of (a)~~

~~and (b) is true~~, permitting the first information processing apparatus to execute the program.

48. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 47, wherein the first identification information includes a user ID identifying the user.

49. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 47, wherein the first identification information includes a device ID identifying the first information processing apparatus.

50. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 49, wherein the device ID is unique to the first information processing apparatus.

51. (currently amended) A computer-readable storage medium having instructions stored thereon, the instructions being executable by a computer to perform a method of remotely permitting execution of a program stored on a recording medium, the method comprising:

receiving first identification information and second identification information at a second information processing apparatus from a first information processing apparatus via a network, the first identification information identifying at least one of the first information processing apparatus or a user of the first information processing apparatus, the second identification information identifying a program stored on a recording medium coupled to the first information processing apparatus;

determining ~~one of~~ (a) whether the first and second identification information match data stored in a database at the second information processing apparatus, and (b) whether the second identification information matches data stored in the database and a password inputted by the user at the first information processing apparatus is valid, when the first

identification information is determined not to match the data stored in the database; and

when the first identification information is determined not match the data stored in the database, and the second identification information is determined to match the data stored in the database and the password inputted by the user at the first information processing apparatus is valid, ~~any of (a) and (b) is true~~, permitting the first information processing apparatus to execute the program.

52. (currently amended) A second information processing apparatus capable of being connected through a network to a first information processing apparatus, the second information processing apparatus comprising a database and being operable to receive a password inputted by a user at the first information processing apparatus and first identification information and second identification information over the network from the first information processing apparatus, the first identification information identifying at least one of the first information processing apparatus or a user of the first information processing apparatus, the second identification information identifying a program stored on a recording medium coupled to the first information processing apparatus, and verify whether the received first and second identification information and the password match data stored in the database,

such that when ~~each of~~ the first ~~and second~~ identification information does not matche~~s~~ the data stored in the database, and when ~~or~~ each of the second identification information and the password matches the data stored in the database, the second information processing apparatus permits the first information processing apparatus to execute the program.

53. (new) A network system as claimed in claim 43, wherein when each of the first and second identification

information matches the data stored in the database, the second information processing apparatus permits the first information processing apparatus to execute the program.

54. (new) A method as claimed in claim 47 further comprising:

when each of the first and second identification information is determined to match the data stored in the database, permitting the first information processing apparatus to execute the program.

55. (new) A computer-readable storage medium as claimed in claim 51, wherein the method further comprises:

when each of the first and second identification information is determined to match the data stored in the database, permitting the first information processing apparatus to execute the program.

56. (new) A second information processing apparatus as claimed in claim 52, wherein when each of the first and second identification information matches the data stored in the database, the second information processing apparatus permits the first information processing apparatus to execute the program.